



Philippians

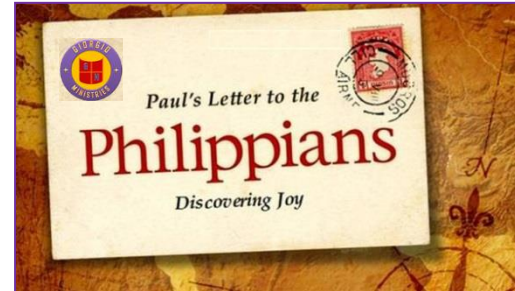
Joy In Christ

Lesson 11

The Joy of Maturity

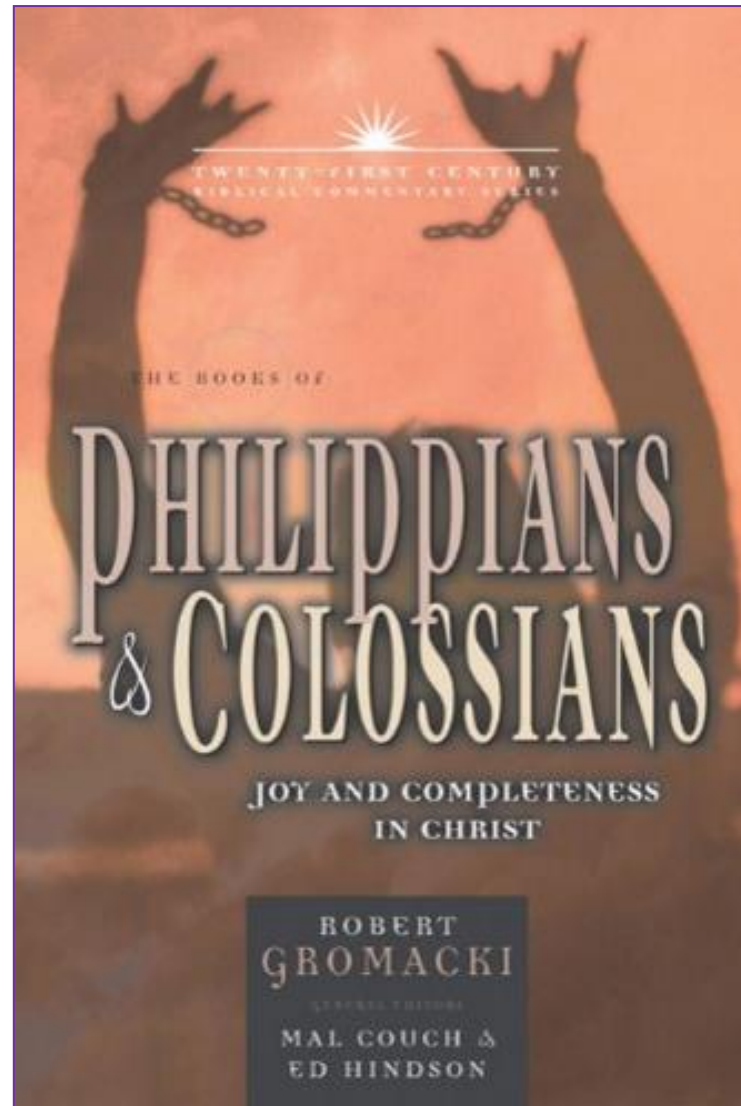
Philippians 3:15-21

Philip Giorgio



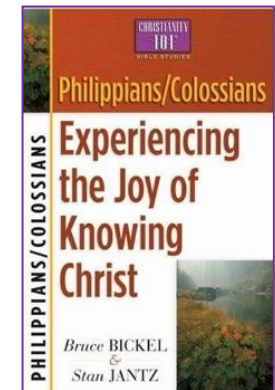
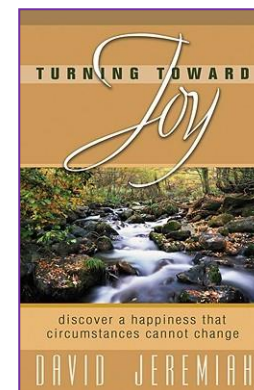
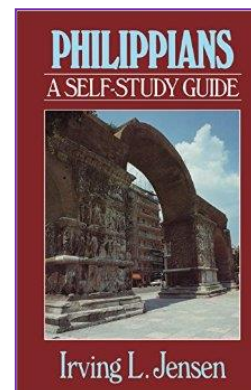
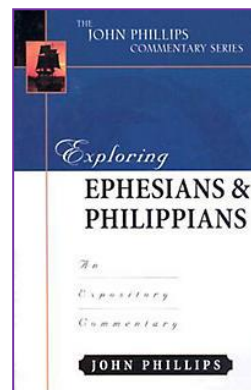
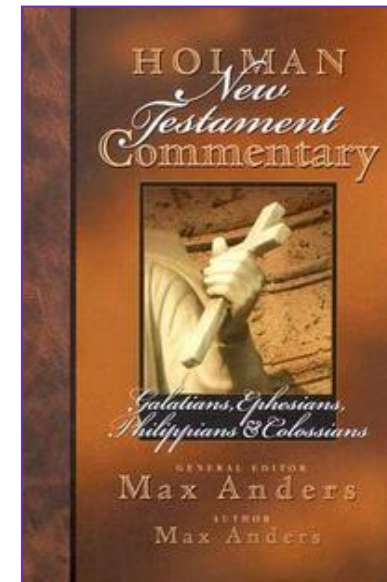
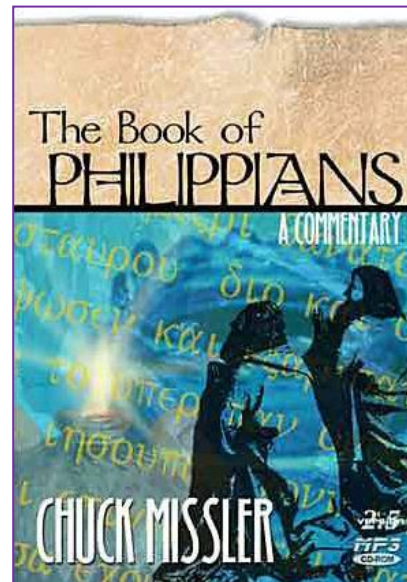


Textbook

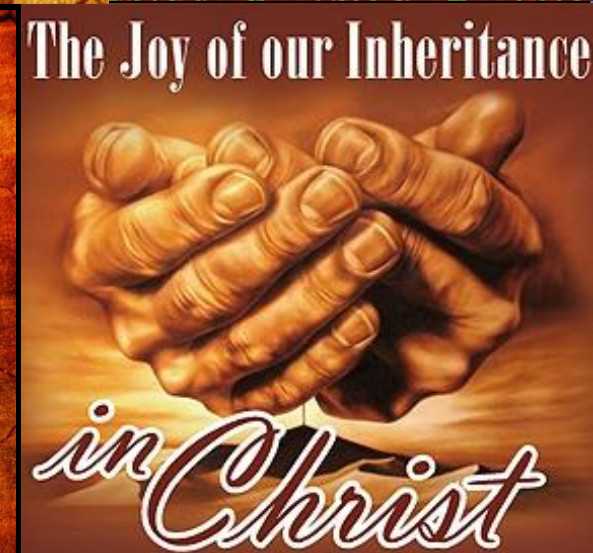
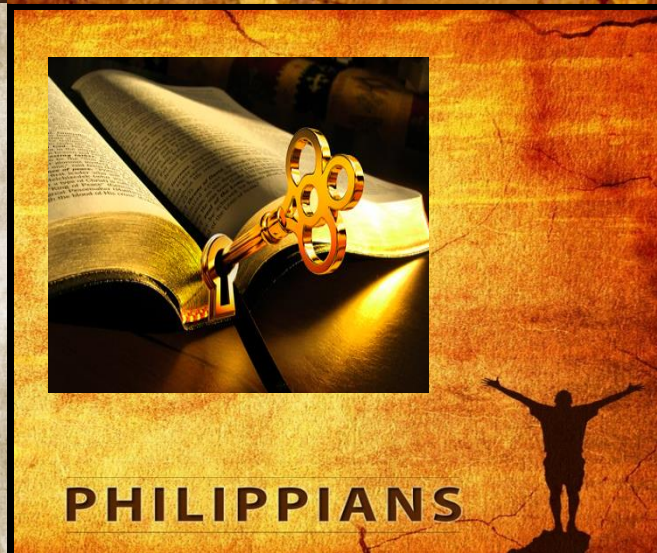
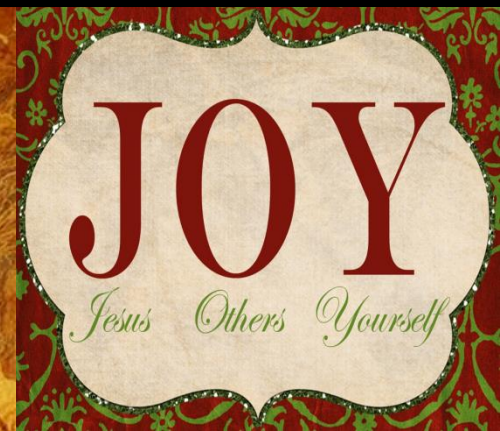
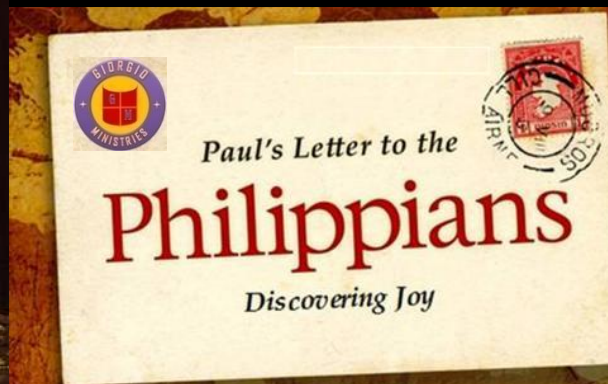
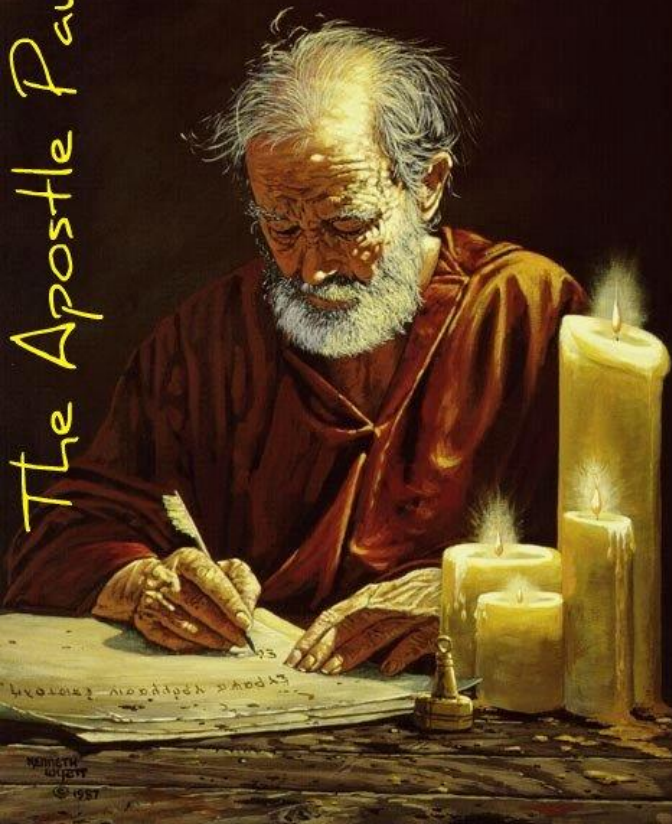




References



The Apostle Paul





Course Outline

Course Outline - Lessons

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

- Lesson 01: Introduction [PHILIPPIANS]
- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
- Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
- Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11]
- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
- Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity [PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21]
- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
- Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]

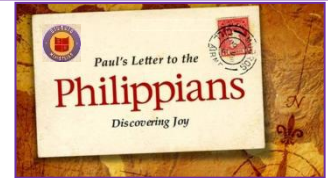


Lesson Outline

Lesson 11 - Outline

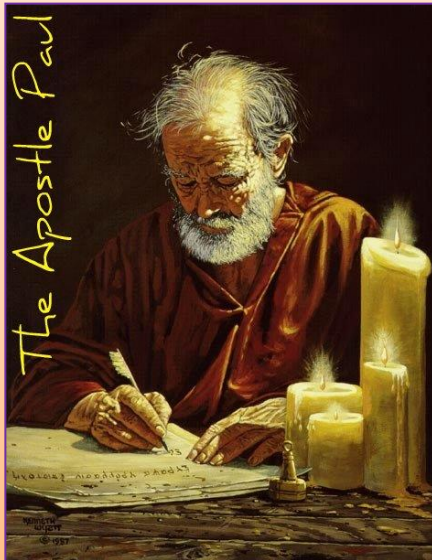
■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity



• STRUCTURE

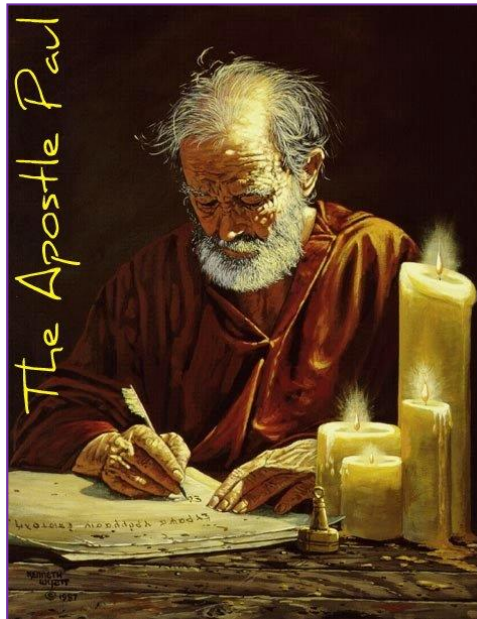
- ➡ » Lesson Preview Introduction
- » Goals for the Church *Philippians 3:15-16*
- » Apostasy of the Judaizers *Philippians 3:17-19*
- » Glorification of Believers *Philippians 3:20-21*



Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

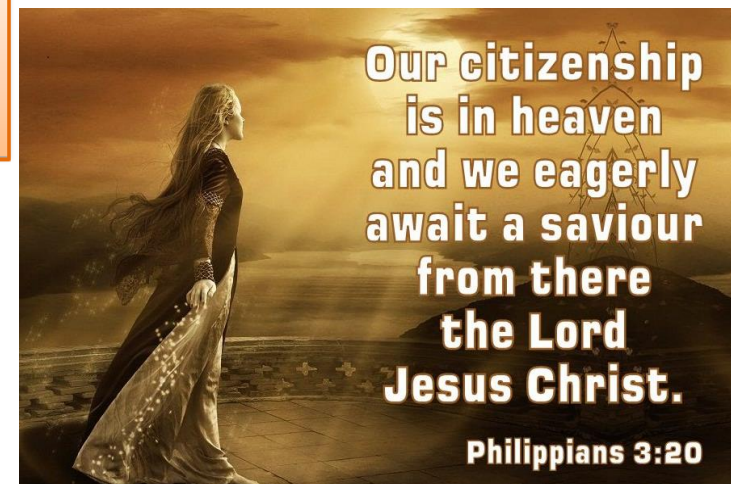
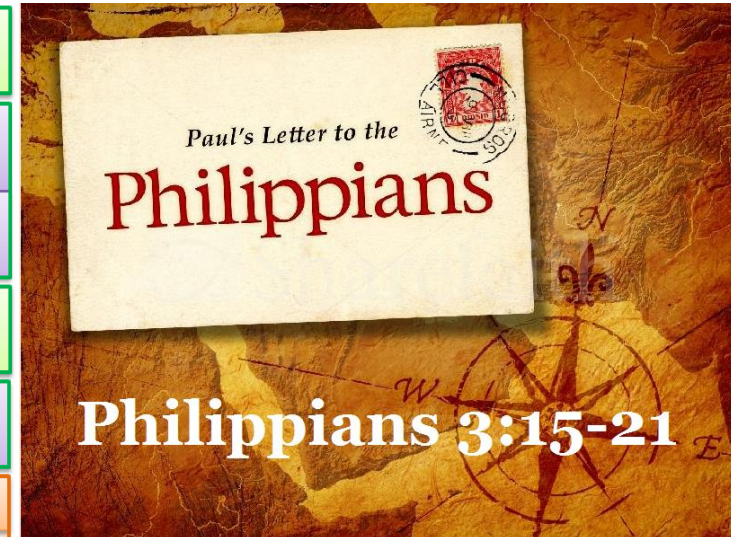
• Preview ... THE JOY OF MATURITY

Paul now addresses the walk of mature believers, the ones who stay in the Word of God constantly striving to do His will. Mature believers are to be consistent in their walk, holding to the standard set by the Word. To make this easier, Paul says to emulate those who are godly examples but to beware of those who are ungodly examples. He ends with a joyous statement on the eventual glorification of each believer.



Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

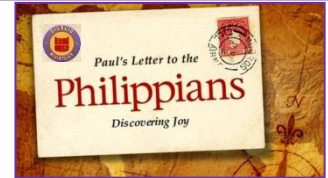
SALVATION		
PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION	GLORIFICATION
<i>Saved from...</i>		
PENALTY of SIN	POWER of SIN	PRESENCE of SIN
2 Thessalonians 1:9	Hebrew 7:25	Romans 13:11
These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,	Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.	And <i>do</i> this, knowing the time, that now <i>it is</i> high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation <i>is</i> nearer than when we <i>first</i> believed.



Lesson 11 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity



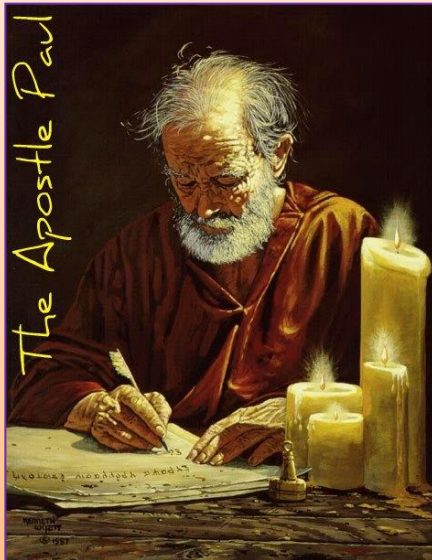
• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview Introduction

➔ » Goals for the Church *Philippians 3:15-16*

» Apostasy of the Judaizers *Philippians 3:17-19*

» Glorification of Believers *Philippians 3:20-21*



Goals for the Church - Philippians 3:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

15 **Therefore** let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

16 Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

-- Philippians 3:15-16 ... NKJV

• Aims and Goals

The word “**THEREFORE**” joins this section with the previous one.

Paul wanted his personal aims to become goals for the Philippians.

Two aims are given to ...

1. Have the **SAME MIND** [verse 15]
2. Have the **SAME WALK** [verse 16]

Goals for the Church - Philippians 3:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

15 Therefore **let us, as many as are mature, have this mind**; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.
16 Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

-- Philippians 3:15-16 ... NKJV

• Same Mind

THE COMMAND

THREE features of this command are set forth.

FIRST, it includes both Paul and his readers. The exhortation, "**LET US ... HAVE THIS MIND**", shows that the apostle identified himself with the church and needed to be stimulated to further growth just as they did.

SECOND, Paul's directive could be obeyed only by those who were mature and were maturing. The phrase, "**AS MANY AS**", shows that only a select group of believers would respond to the appeal. **MATURE** believers know where they are in the divine offer of spiritual progress and perceive that they can still develop further. Mature believers are always conforming to the image of Christ; striving to attain the mind of Christ.

THIRD, the command to be like minded was directed toward one purpose, Paul's intent of pressing toward the goal and of believers doing all God planned for them to do and becoming all that God has designed for His children.

Goals for the Church - Philippians 3:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; **and if in anything you think otherwise**, God will reveal even this to you.
16 Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

-- Philippians 3:15-16 ... NKJV

• Same Mind

THE CORRECTION

Some Christians blindly think they do not need to improve or they can mature through legalism (“**AND IF IN ANYTHING YOU THINK OTHERWISE**”).

They take a position other than that lived or prescribed by Paul. After all that Paul taught in this epistle and after describing his own spiritual condition that still needed improvement, what more could the apostle say to change his readers' wills? Did they actually think they were better than he was?

In this situation, he simply turned them over to divine convictions (“**GOD WILL REVEAL THAT ALSO TO YOU**”).

The means of illumination would be the teaching of the Holy Spirit, the observation of the growth of mature believers in grace, and the rod of chastisement.

Goals for the Church - Philippians 3:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

16 Nevertheless, to *the degree* that **we have already attained**, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

-- Philippians 3:15-16 ... NKJV

• Same Walk

They had moved into a doctrinal position and a behavioral pattern that were being threatened by the legalists.

The phrase “**WE HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED**” shows that they had arrived at this plateau after much effort and experience.

The Judaizers, however, charged that they had to advance beyond simple faith to a complex legalistic system (Galatians 3:3).

God has only one way of salvation, and he likewise has only one means of salvation. Both Jews and Gentiles alike are saved by faith alone in Christ alone, and they become holy by total submission to the Holy Spirit who produces His fruit through them (Galatians 5:16, 22-23).

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ...

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. --- Galatians 5:16, 22-23 ... NKJV

Goals for the Church - Philippians 3:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.
16 Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk **by the same rule**, let us **be of the same mind**.

-- Philippians 3:15-16 ... NKJV

• Same Walk

The standard of the Christian walk is here described as “**BY THE SAME RULE**.” The noun “**RULE**” is *kanoni* in the Greek and is the source of our English word “CANON.”

Just as the Bible alone is the basis of faith and practice, so these “rules” should provide the guidelines for daily living.

The **TWO** verbs argue for constant obedience to Paul’s directions.

FIRST, he wanted the Philippians to walk according to the same principles he had just discussed. A Spirit-controlled walk is void of dissention and jealousy; rather, it is marked by love and concern for others (Galatians 5:22-6:5).

SECOND, Paul desired them to **BE OF THE SAME MIND** (2:2). There can be no joy if there is static immaturity and selfish competition within the bounds of legalism.

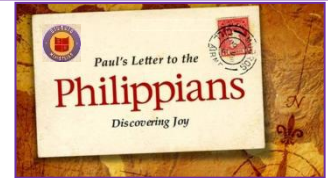
2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

--- Philippians 2:2 ... NKJV

Lesson 11 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity



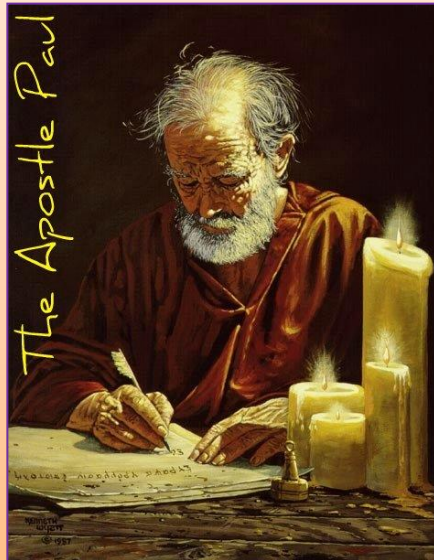
• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview Introduction

» Goals for the Church Philippians 3:15-16

➔ » Apostasy of the Judaizers Philippians 3:17-19

» Glorification of Believers Philippians 3:20-21



Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Standard of Orthodoxy

Paul ended this chapter just as he began it - with a warning (3:1-2).

The direct address (“**BRETHREN**”) served to alert them and to form a transition to this new subject.

Apostasy is a departure from a moral and doctrinal standard. Paul established himself as the spiritual yardstick by which the apostate legalists were to be measured.

3 Finally, my **brethren**, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

2 Beware of dogs, **beware** of evil workers, **beware** of the mutilation! --- Philippians 3:1-2 ... NKJV

Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Brethren, **join in following my example**, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

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--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Standard of Orthodoxy

PAUL

With all humility, the apostle could confidently exhort, “**JOIN IN FOLLOWING MY EXAMPLE.**”

He wanted the Philippians to become what he was.

He knew that God had done great things in his life, that his theology and practice were sound, and that the Philippians needed an objective, visible, human goal.

Paul could make this declaration with all authority because he knew he was following Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

11 Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

--- 1 Corinthians 11:1 ... NKJV

Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and **note** those who so walk, as you have us for a **pattern**.

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Standard of Orthodoxy

OTHERS

The charge “**NOTE**” calls for careful scrutiny.

Its present tense suggests that the Philippians were to set their sights constantly on those who were in their midst, especially since Paul was absent from them.

Paul wanted them to follow such men as Timothy and Epaphroditus, the godly bishops and deacons in their assembly (1:1), and dedicated men and women within the congregation.

Paul offered his associates and himself as a pattern by which others should be tested.

The Greek word for “**PATTERN**” is normally translated “TYPE”, the impression of stamp made by an industrial die. It was used of the nail prints in Christ’s hands (John 20:25).

Paul and his associates thus became a mold into which the lives of others could be poured and conformed.

Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

¹⁸ For many walk, **of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are** the enemies of the cross of Christ:

¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their belly*, and *whose glory is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Violation of Orthodoxy

Imitation and vigilance were needed because many false teachers were present.

Believers must perceive the difference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (1 John 4:1-6). They should not be gullible and accept all preachers as genuine.

Whenever Paul was in their church, he told them about the imminent invasion of heretics (**“OF WHOM I OFTEN TOLD YOU”**).

In this letter, he warned them once again (**“AND NOW TELL YOU”**). His love for Christ, the truth, and the Philippians can be seen in his compassionate concern - **“EVEN WEEPING”**.

Paul then describes this unscrupulous group of false teachers in **FIVE (5)** ways.

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. **By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

--- 1 John 4:4-6 ... NKJV

Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

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19 whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Violation of Orthodoxy

Paul then describes this unscrupulous group of false teachers in **FIVE (5)** ways.

1. ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

They manifested their hostility to the redemptive message of Christ's death and resurrection by insisting that faith alone in Christ alone is not sufficient to save.

They expressed faith in the person of Christ but not in his finished work.

They contended that circumcision and obedience to the Mosaic Law needed to be added to faith in order to receive justification (Acts 15:1). If righteousness, in total or in part, is dependent on legalism, then the value of Christ's death is negated (Gal. 2:21).

The concept of salvation by works is contrary to the principle of divine grace (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Galatians 5:10).

21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain." --- Galatians 2:21 ... NKJV

Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 whose **end is destruction**, whose god *is their belly*, and *whose glory is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Violation of Orthodoxy

2. THEIR END IS DESTRUCTION

These legalists are lost and destined for perdition.

The “**END**” refers to the conclusion of the acceptance of the legalistic message. When persons who have embraced legalism die, they go to Hades to await the final resurrection, the Great White Throne Judgement, and consignment to the eternal lake of fire.

The term “**DESTRUCTION**” is based on the same stem that is used to form such words as “PERISH”, and “LOST” (Luke 19:10; 1 Corinthians 1:18).

The unsaved treat the message of the cross with intellectual contempt because they already are perishing (1 Corinthians 1:18).

If they do not exercise repentant faith in Christ, their living convictions will be confirmed at their death.

In Hades they will not experience extinction but total loss of will-being. They are destructive men destined for destruction (2 Peter 2:1-3).

Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, **whose god is their belly**, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Violation of Orthodoxy

3. THEIR GOD IS THEIR BELLY

These false teachers were in the ministry for what they could get out of it.

Both Paul and Peter warned against greedy elders (1 Timothy 6:3-10; 1 Peter 5:2). Their **belly became their god** in that they served their worldly appetites (Romans 16:18).

One reason why Paul surrendered his rights to be supported financially by his converts was to avoid the suspicion that he was only interested in their money (1 Corinthians 9:1-18).

To show that salvation was a free gift from God, he offered his apostolic services at no charge.

Unfortunately, his critics turned this gracious gesture into an argument against his apostleship (2 Corinthians 11:7-9; 12:13).

They claimed that God financially prospered all successful preachers (1 Timothy 6:5).

This assertion is ridiculous in that Christ Himself experienced no material gains from His earthly ministry.

Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

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19 whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose glory is in their shame*—who set their mind on earthly things.

--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Violation of Orthodoxy

4. THEY GLORY IN THEIR SHAME

The false teachers gloried in things of which they should have been ashamed.

They boasted in the flesh, in the physical rite of circumcision, and in the legalistic efforts of self.

They bragged about the number of people they were able to get to submit to circumcision (Galatians 6:13).

13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. --- Galatians 6:13 ... NKJV

Apostasy of the Judaizers - Philippians 3:17-19 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who **set their mind on earthly things.**

--- Philippians 3:17-19 ... NKJV

• The Violation of Orthodoxy

5. THEY SET THEIR MINDS ON EARTHLY THINGS

Believers frequently are castigated for being so **heavenly minded** that they are no earthly good.

The converse, however, is predominantly true. People are often so **earthly minded** that they never think about **heavenly** matters.

The Judaizers attempted to spoil the church by human traditions and worldly religious concepts (Colossians 2:8).

They tried to force a legalistic calendar on believers (Galatians 4:3, 9-10) and to impose a restricted diet in which certain foods could not be touched, tasted, or handled (Colossians 2:21-22).

This legalistic conformity replaced grace and faith as the basis for justification and sanctification.

People who trusted themselves must always look down at the earth rather than up to heaven.

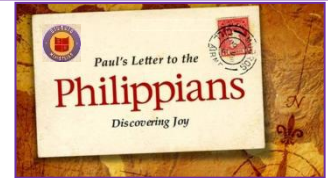
⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

--- Colossians 2:8 ... NKJV

Lesson 11 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity



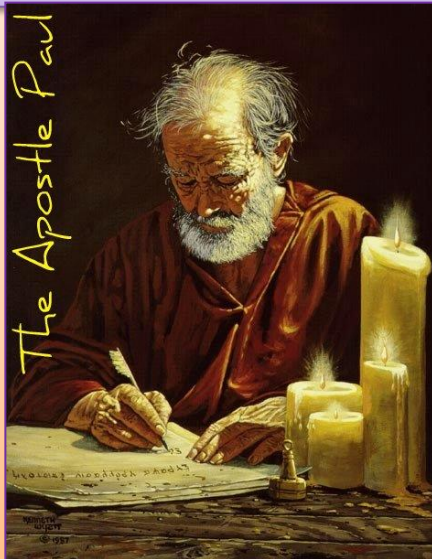
• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview *Introduction*

» Goals for the Church *Philippians 3:15-16*

» Apostasy of the Judaizers *Philippians 3:17-19*

➔ » Glorification of Believers *Philippians 3:20-21*



Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

- **Legalism**

Legalism may tell people how to live, but it cannot prepare them for death.

Since it is based on self-effort, it is powerless to raise people out of death.

It is at this very point that the insufficiency of legalism is laid bare.

In contrast, believing sinners have put their trust in Christ, who conquered death and hell through His resurrection.

Christians can look forward to new bodies that will be both immortal and incorruptible.

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

²⁰ For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

• Our Citizenship in Heaven

ITS MEANING

The residents of Philippi were actually **citizens of Rome**. They constituted a Roman colony within the region of Macedonian. Away from Rome they were still Romans (Acts 16:12, 21); Thus they fully understood the significance of this spiritual metaphor.

Christians likewise constitute a colony of heaven on earth. They have dual **citizenship**.

Paul was in the kingdom of God, yet he claimed the rights of His **Roman citizenship** (Acts 16:37; 22:25-29).

The pronoun “**OUR**” is very emphatic and stresses the joint possession of **HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP** by Paul and the church in contrast to the earthly domain of the Judaizers.

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

• Philippi

A crucial battle between the coalition of **Octavius** (**EMPEROR AUGUSTUS**) and **Mark Anthony** and that of **Brutus** and **Cassius** (murderers of **JULIUS CAESAR**, in March 44 BC) was fought at **Philippi**.

The **former** won, thus ending the **Roman republic** in 42 BC.

Marcus Antonius (January 14, 83 BC – August 1, 30 BC), commonly known in English as **Mark** or **Marc Antony**, was a Roman politician and general who played a critical role in the transformation of the Roman Republic from an oligarchy into the autocratic Roman Empire.

Roman Republic	1
Official name (as on coins)	
Roma	
after c. 100 BC:	
Senatus populusque Romanus (Latin)	
(SPQR)	
("The Senate and People of Rome")	
509 BC–27 BC	

Chronology	
Augustus	27 BC – 14 AD
Tiberius	14-37 AD
Caligula	37–41 AD
Claudius	41–54 AD
Nero	54–68 AD

Roman imperial dynasties	
Year of the Four Emperors	
Chronology	
Galba	68–69
Otho	69
Vitellius	69
Vespasian	69–79

Augustus

The statue known as the Augustus of Prima Porta, 1st century

1st Emperor of the Roman Empire

Reign 16 January 27 BC – 19 August 14 AD (40 years)

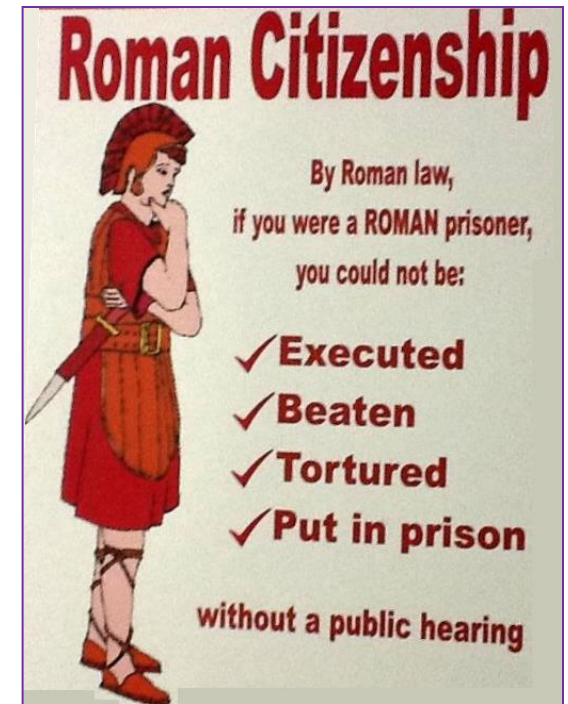
Successor Tiberius

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

• Philippi

Because of **Philippi's** assistance, **AUGUSTUS** founded a **Roman** military colony at **Philippi** and granted **Roman** citizenship to the **Philippians** when **he** became **emperor**.

As a **Roman** colony, the city grew in prominence because it was on the main road from **Rome** to the province of **Asia**.



Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

²⁰ For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

• Our Citizenship in Heaven

ITS LOCATION

Our citizenship literally is “**IN THE HEAVENS**.”

In a general sense, the Philippians were heavenly citizens, but specifically their residency was the Holy City (Revelation 21:2,10).

People of faith, like Abraham, have looked for this city built by God (Hebrews 11:10). Jesus Christ has prepared rooms for believers within this city (John 14:2-3; Hebrews 11:16).

The verb “**IS**” indicates that this citizenship was a present possession. Just as the deity of Christ is never diminished, so the heavenly citizenship of the believer can never be taken away. It exists now and forever.

¹⁰ for he **waited** for **the city** which has foundations, whose **builder** and **maker is God**.

--- Hebrews 11:10 ... NKJV

¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a **heavenly country**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has **prepared a city** for them.

--- Hebrews 11:16 ... NKJV

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

²⁰ For our citizenship is in **heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for **the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**,
²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is **Christ the Lord**. --- Luke 2:11 ... NKJV

• Our Savior Can Come at Any Moment

CHRIST'S RELATIONSHIP TO BELIEVERS

Paul makes **THREE (3)** points about **JESUS CHRIST**.

FIRST, His is the "**SAVIOR**". The angels declared Him to be such before the shepherds at His Birth (Luke 2:11). He was the **SAVIOR** of both the Jews and Gentiles (John 4:42).

This title is also a direct proof of the deity of Christ, because the titles "GOD" and "**SAVIOR**" are used interchangeable (1 Timothy 4:10). The Old Testament openly declared that only Jehovah could be the **SAVIOR** of His people (Psalm 106:21; Isaiah 45:21, 49:26). Since **JESUS CHRIST** bears the name of **SAVIOR**, he must also be Jehovah God (Titus 2:13).

SECOND, His full name is "**LORD JESUS CHRIST**." This is the name every tongue will confess and at which every knee will bow (2:10-11).

THIRD, He will come from the **heavens**, namely, the third heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

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--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

• Our Savior Can Come at Any Moment

THE RELATIONSHIP OF BELIEVERS TO CHRIST

Believers should “**WAIT**” for Him because of who He is and what He has done.

The verb stresses an earnest longing an eager expectation, and an anxious waiting - “**EAGERLY**”.

It connotes an imminent coming, a possibility in one's own lifetime.

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will **transform** our lowly body that it may be **conformed** to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

1 Corinthians 15: 50-54 ... NKJV

• Our Change Will Come From Christ

The present nature of the human body is suited to temporal life on this planet. This must therefore be changed before it can function properly in the eternal state (1 Corinthians 15:50).

This change can occur in one of **TWO WAYS**.

- (1) The bodies of believers alive at the time of the rapture of the church will be glorified (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- (2) The bodies of believers who die before Christ's coming and the Rapture will be raised from the dead and be made immortal and incorruptible (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does **corruption** inherit **incorruption**. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a **mystery**: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed**— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised **incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this **corruptible** must put on **incorruption**, and this **mortal** must put on **immortality**. ⁵⁴ So when this **corruptible** has put on **incorruption**, and this **mortal** has put on **immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will transform **our lowly body** that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

• Our Change Will Come From Christ

THE OBJECT OF THE CHANGE

The object of the change is the state of “**OUR LOWLY BODY**.”

The literal translation is “THE BODY OF OUR HUMILIATION.”

It refers to the mortal, corruptible body that was the result of the introduction of sin into the human race by Adam.

It is thus subject to disease and death and is marked by **dishonor and weakness** (1 Corinthians 15:43).

Nothing is more humbling than a diseased body hooked up to a life-support system or a lifeless body in a coffin. In such a body, Christ humbled Himself to die on the cross (2:8), and in the same type of body believers will one day die.

⁴² So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The **body*** is sown in **corruption**, it is raised in **incorruption**. ⁴³ It is sown in **dishonor**, it is raised in **glory**. It is sown in **weakness**, it is raised in **power**.

--- 1 Corinthians 15:42-43 ... NKJV

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord **Jesus Christ,**
²¹ **who will transform** our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

- **Our Change Will Come From Christ**

THE OBJECT OF THE CHANGE

Jesus Christ will “**TRANSFORM**” this body at his return.

The verb emphasizes outward appearance.

Through the incarnation, God the Son took on the appearance of man in order to change the appearance of man (2:8).

Believers thus are promised new bodies not subject to disease or death.

The limitations of this temporal, earthly body will also be eliminated in the new body that is suited for eternity.

Glorification of Believers - Philippians 3:20-21 - OBSERVATIONS

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which **He is able** even to subdue all things to Himself.

--- Philippians 3:20-21 ... NKJV

⁴⁴ It is sown a **natural body**, it is raised a **spiritual body**. There is a **natural body**, and there is a **spiritual body**.

--- 1 Corinthians 15:44 ... NKJV

• Our Change Will Come From Christ

THE GOAL OF THE CHANGE

When the change occurs, believers will be “**CONFORMED**” to the resurrected, glorified, immortal, incorruptible body of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:49; 1 John 3:2).

Believers will not become little gods, nor will they look exactly like the Savior.

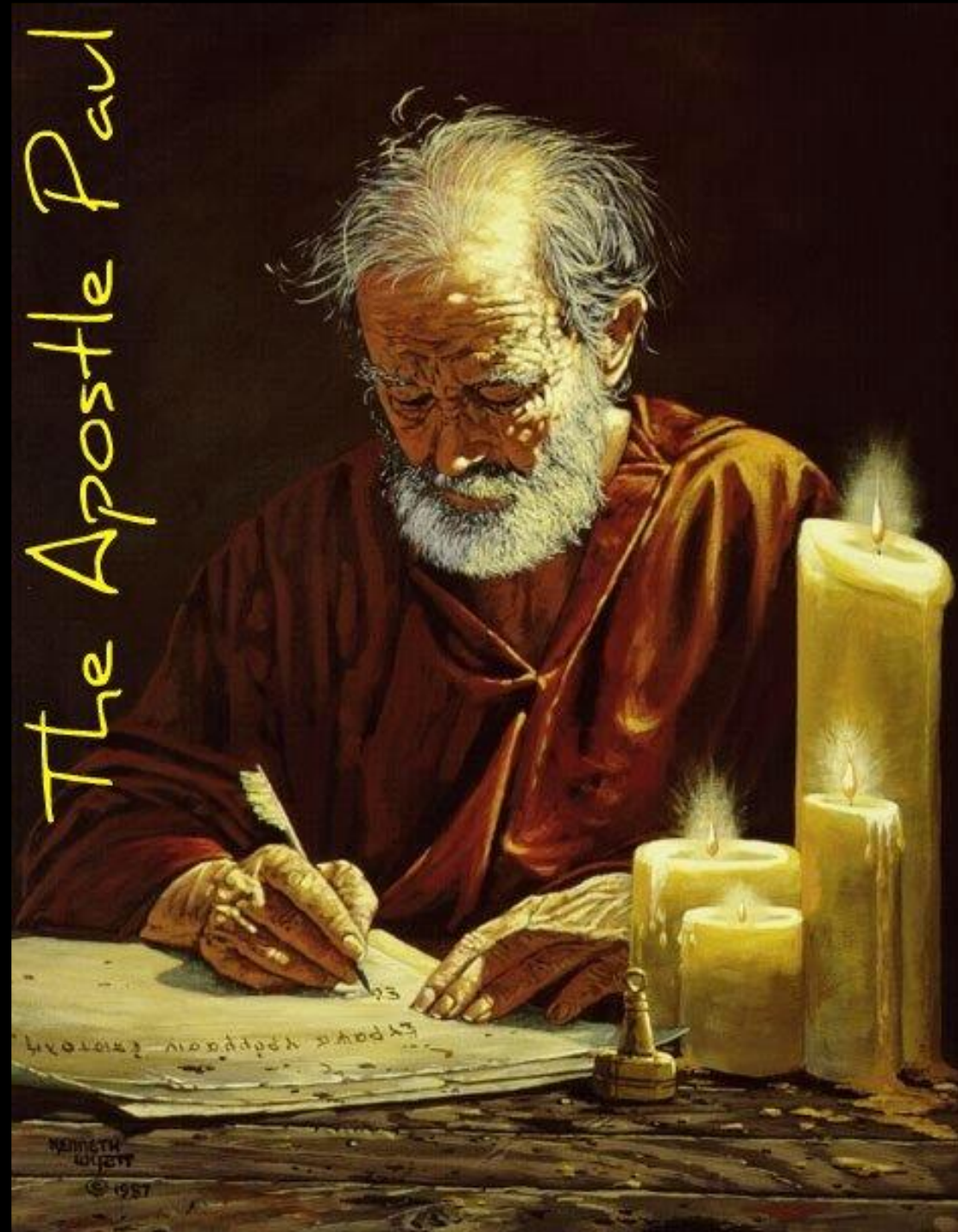
There will be no sin nature in the new body. It will be controlled by the spirit, not by the soul (1 Corinthians 15:44).

THE GUARANTEE OF THE CHANGE

The divine power that enabled Christ to conquer death through His resurrection and that will enable Him to force all of His enemies into total submission is the same power that will change the bodies of believers.

The resurrection change will happen because God has decreed that it will occur.

God always does what He says He will do.



The Apostle Paul

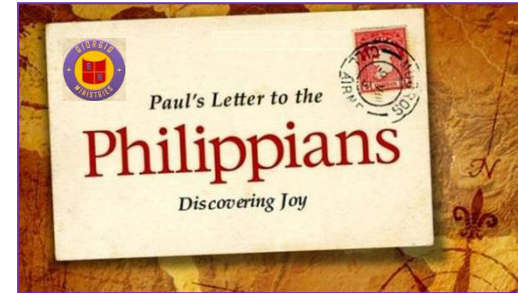
Philippians

"Joy In Christ"

End of Lesson



Instructor: Philip Giorgio
www.GiorgioMinistries.com



Philippians: Joy In Christ

Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace

[Philippians 4:1-9]

Next Lesson

Next Lesson

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

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- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
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- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
- Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity [PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21]
- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
- Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]

